

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1 through 60 in this application and add the following new claims:

--61. A method of ablating a cardiac tissue, comprising the steps of:
providing an ablating device having a first transducer and a second transducer;
positioning the ablating device against cardiac tissue;
activating the first transducer at a first frequency to ablate cardiac tissue; and
activating the second transducer at a second frequency to ablate cardiac tissue.

62. The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of:
moving the ablating device so that the activating steps are carried out to ablate the
same cardiac tissue.

63. The method of claim 61, wherein:
the activating steps are carried out to ablate different cardiac tissue.

64. The method of claim 61, further comprising:
characterizing at least a portion of the cardiac tissue; and
selecting at least one of the first and second transducers to ablate the at least
portion of the cardiac tissue based upon the characterizing step.

65. A method of ablating a cardiac tissue, comprising the steps of:
providing an ablating device having a first transducer and a second transducer, the
first and second transducers both being focused, the first and second transducers having different
focal lengths;
positioning the ablating device against cardiac tissue;
activating the first transducer to ablate cardiac tissue; and
activating the second transducer.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first transducer having a first focal length
and the second transducer has a second focal length different than the first focal length.

67. The method of claim 65, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the ablating device having a body, the first
and second transducers being movable along the body.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first and second transducers being
slidable along the body.

68. The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of:
positioning the body at a selected location on an epicardial surface; and
moving the first and second transducers after the positioning step.

70. A device for ablating tissue, comprising:
a body;
a source of focused ultrasound mounted to the body, the focused ultrasound
having a focus; and
a flexible membrane filled with a substance which receives the focused ultrasound
and transmits the ultrasound energy to the tissue.

71. The device of claim 70, wherein:
the flexible membrane is inflatable to move the focus relative to the tissue to be
ablated.

72. The device of claim 70, wherein:
the flexible membrane tilts the body when inflated.

73. The device of claim 70, wherein:

the source of focused ultrasound includes an ultrasound transducer.

Sub 1
74. A system for ablating tissue with ultrasound energy, comprising:
an ablating element which emits ultrasound energy;
a control system coupled to the ablating element, the control system controlling activation of the ablating element to automatically change a characteristic of the ablating element when ablating the same tissue structure during a first time period and a second time period.

75. The system of claim 74, wherein:
the control system is configured to automatically change a frequency of the ablating element.

76. The system of claim 74, wherein:
the control system is configured to automatically change the power of the ablating element.

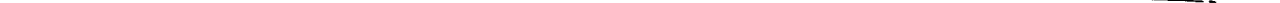
77. The system of claim 74, wherein:
the ablating element emits focused ultrasound which is focused in at least one direction.

Sub 1
78. The system of claim 74, wherein:
the control system automatically moves the focus relative to the tissue structure being ablated.

79. The system of claim 77, wherein:
the control system moves the focus closer to a near surface of the tissue structure being ablated.

80. The method of claim 74, wherein:
the control system includes means for assessing the adequacy of contact between the device and the tissue structure being ablated.

A1



CONCLUSION

Claims 61 through 81 are pending in this application.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned with "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

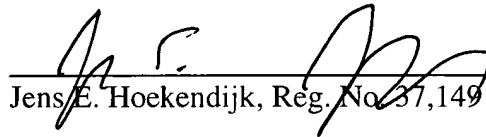
If a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (415) 412-3322.

Please charge any required fees, including any necessary extension-of-time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1247.

Respectfully submitted,

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